

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**  
**Chapter 143: DENTAL PROFESSIONS**

**§18374. DENTAL HYGIENIST**

**1. Scope of practice; direct supervision.** A dental hygienist and faculty dental hygienist may perform the following procedures under the direct supervision of a dentist:

- A. Administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia, as long as the dental hygienist or faculty dental hygienist has authority to administer the relevant medication pursuant to section 18345, subsection 2, paragraph D or E; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- B. Irrigate and dry root canals; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- C. Record readings with a digital caries detector and report them to the dentist for interpretation and evaluation; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- D. Remove socket dressings; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- E. Take cytological smears as requested by the dentist; and [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- F. Take impressions for nightguards and occlusal splints as long as the dentist takes all measurements and bite registrations. [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

[2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

**2. Scope of practice; general supervision.** A dental hygienist and faculty dental hygienist may perform the following procedures under the general supervision of a dentist:

- A. Prescribe, dispense or administer anticavity toothpastes or topical gels with 1.1% or less sodium fluoride and oral rinses with 0.05%, 0.2%, 0.44% or 0.5% sodium fluoride, as well as chlorhexidine gluconate oral rinse; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- B. Apply cavity varnish; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- C. Apply desensitizing agents to teeth; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- D. Apply fluoride to control caries; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- E. Apply liquids, pastes or gel topical anesthetics; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- F. Apply sealants, as long as a licensed dentist first makes the determination and diagnosis as to the surfaces on which the sealants are applied; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- G. Cement pontics and facings outside the mouth; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- H. Change or replace dry socket packets after diagnosis and treatment planned by a dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- I. Deliver, but not condense or pack, amalgam or composite restoration material; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- J. Expose and process radiographs; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- K. Fabricate temporary crowns and bridges, limiting handpiece rotary instrumentation used in the fabrication to extraoral use only, as long as the dentist checks the occlusion and fit prior to releasing the patient; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- L. For instruction purposes, demonstrate to a patient how the patient should place and remove removable prostheses, appliances or retainers; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

- M. For the purpose of eliminating pain or discomfort, remove loose, broken or irritating orthodontic appliances; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- N. Give oral health instruction; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- O. Interview patients and record complete medical and dental histories; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- P. Irrigate and aspirate the oral cavity; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- Q. Isolate operative fields; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- R. Obtain bacterial sampling when treatment is planned by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- S. Perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including root planing; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- T. Perform cold vitality testing with confirmation by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- U. Perform complete periodontal and dental restorative charting; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- V. Perform dietary analyses for dental disease control; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- W. Perform electronic vitality scanning with confirmation by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- X. Perform oral inspections, recording all conditions that should be called to the attention of the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- Y. Perform postoperative irrigation of surgical sites; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- Z. Perform preliminary selection and fitting of orthodontic bands, as long as final placement and cementing in the patient's mouth are done by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- AA. Place and recement temporary crowns with temporary cement; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- BB. Place and recement with temporary cement an existing crown that has fallen out; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- CC. Place and remove gingival retraction cord without vasoconstrictor; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- DD. Place and remove matrix bands, periodontal dressing, rubber dams and wedges; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- EE. Place elastics or instruct in their use; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- FF. Place, hold or remove celluloid and other plastic strips prior to or subsequent to the placement of a filling by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- GG. Place localized delivery of chemotherapeutic agents when treatment is planned by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- HH. Place or remove temporary separating devices; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- II. Place wires, pins and elastic ligatures to tie in orthodontic arch wires that have been fitted and approved by the dentist at the time of insertion; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- JJ. Place temporary restorations as an emergency procedure, as long as the patient is informed of the temporary nature of the restoration; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- KK. Pour and trim dental models; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- LL. Prepare tooth sites and surfaces with a rubber cup and pumice for banding or bonding of orthodontic brackets. This procedure may not be interpreted as a preparation for restorative material; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

MM. Reapply, on an emergency basis only, orthodontic brackets; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

NN. Remove composite material using slow-speed instrumentation for debonding brackets, as long as the dentist conducts a final check prior to release of the patient; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

OO. Remove excess cement from the supragingival surfaces of teeth; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

PP. Remove orthodontic arch wires and tension devices and any loose bands or bonds, but only as directed by the dentist; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

QQ. Remove sutures; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

RR. Retract lips, cheek, tongue and other tissue parts; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

SS. Select and try in stainless steel or other preformed crowns for insertion by the dentist; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

TT. Smooth and polish amalgam restorations; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

UU. Take and record the vital signs of blood pressure, pulse and temperature; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

VV. Take and pour impressions for study casts, athletic mouth guards, custom trays, bleaching trays, fluoride trays, opposing models, retainers and stents; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

WW. Take dental plaque smears for microscopic inspection and patient education; [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

XX. Take intraoral measurements and make preliminary selection of arch wires and intraoral and extraoral appliances, including head gear; and [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

YY. Take intraoral photographs. [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

[ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

**3. Limitation.** An individual with a faculty dental hygienist license may provide the services described in this section only as part of the education program for which the license was issued by the board.

[ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) . ]

#### SECTION HISTORY

2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) .

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